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COHOMOLOGICAL BEHAVIOUR OF THE REDUCTION MODULO A PRIME OF $\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)$

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Introduction

Let $\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)$ be the group of 3 by 3 invertible matrices with integral coefficients, p a prime number, F_p the field with p elements, and

$$r_p : \mathrm{GL}_3(Z) \to \mathrm{GL}_3(F_p)$$

the reduction modulo p. The map r_p induces morphisms of cohomology groups (with integral coefficients)

$$r_p^* : H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p)) \to H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)).$$

The purpose of this paper is to describe completely r_p^*.

Actually a presentation of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p))$ (resp. $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$) is given in [1] and [5] (resp. [3]), and we give here an expression for the images of generators via r_p^*. In Section 0, we describe the cohomology of $\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)$ and $\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p)$. In Section 1, we prove that r_2^* is injective on 6-torsion. In Section 2, we study the reduction of r_p^* to the p-torsion of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p))$. In Section 3, we study r_p^* on $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p), F_l)$, when $l \neq p$. We also compute $r_p^*(\tilde{c}_i)$, where $\tilde{c}_i \in H^{2i}(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p))$, $1 \leq i \leq 3$, are the Chern classes of the Brauer lifting of the standard representation of $\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p)$.

0. Some known results

In this section, we sum up some of the results needed in the later sections. Let

$H^*(G)$ denote the cohomology ring of a discrete group G with coefficients Z. When $x \in H^*(G)$, we write $|x|$ the degree of x.

0.1. The cohomology of $\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)$ and $\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)$ can be computed completely by using the reduction theory of positive definite real quadratic forms.

Theorem 0.1 (cf. [3]). (i) *$H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$ is killed by multiplication by* 12.

(ii) *Let G and G' be two cyclic group of order three in $\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)$ which are not conjugate to each other. Let ε (resp. ε') be a nontrivial element in $H^2(G)$ (resp. $H^2(G')$). The map*

$$H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))_{(3)} \to H^*(G)_{(3)} \oplus H^*(G')_{(3)}$$

is injective. Its image is generated by ε^2 and ε'^2.

(iii) *Let H and H' be two subgroups of $\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)$ isomorphic to the dihedral group $\mathscr{D}_4$ of eight elements and contained in $\Gamma_{M'}, \Gamma_O$ respectively* (*notations of* [3]). *Then the map*

$$H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)_{(2)} \to H^*(H)_{(2)} \oplus H^*(H')_{(2)}$$

is injective.

Furthermore $H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(Z))_{(2)}$ is generated by elements $u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_7$ with $|u_1| = |u_2| = 3$, $|u_3| = |u_4| = 4$, $|u_5| = 5$, and $|u_6| = |u_7| = 7$.

0.2. Let U be the group of upper triangular matrices in $\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p)$. It is a p-Sylow subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p)$, so the map $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p))_{(p)} \to H^*(U)_{(p)}$ is injective.

Theorem 0.2 [5]. (i) *For $p=2$ the ring $H^*(U)$ is generated by elements y_1, y_2, e, v with $|y_1| = |y_2| = 2$, $|e| = 3$, $|v| = 4$.*

The subring $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_2))_{(2)}$ is generated by $y_1 v$, $y_1^2 + y_2^2 + v$ and e.

(ii) *Modulo its nilpotent elements, the ring $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_3))_{(3)}$ is generated by elements $b_1, (y_1 v)^2, (y_2 v)^2, y_1 y_2 v$, and $y_1^6 + y_2^6 + v^2$ of respective degrees* 4, 16, 16, 10 *and* 12.

0.3. Quillen described $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_q), F_l)$ for any finite field F_q, where l is a prime not dividing q, and $n \geq 1$ an integer. In our case he gets

Theorem 0.3 [1]. (i) *There are ring isomorphisms*

$$H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p), F_3) = \begin{cases} F_3[\hat{c}_2] \otimes \Lambda(e_2) & \text{when } p \equiv 2 \pmod 3 \\ F_3[\hat{c}_1, \hat{c}_2, \hat{c}_3] \otimes \Lambda(e_1, e_2, e_3) & \text{when } p \equiv 1 \pmod 3 \end{cases}$$

with $|\hat{c}_i| = 2i$ and $|e_i| = 2i-1$.

(ii) *The ring $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p), F_2)$ is generated by elements $\hat{c}_1, \hat{c}_2, \hat{c}_3, e_1, e_2, e_3$ such that $|\hat{c}_i| = 2i$ and $|e_i| = 2i-1$* (*for relations see* [1]).

1. The reduction modulo two

Theorem 1. *The homomorphism*

$$r_2^*: H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(F_2))_{(l)} \to H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(Z))$$

is injective when $l=2$ *or* 3, $*>0$.

Proof. For $l=2$ we look at the subgroup $H' \simeq \mathcal{D}_4$ of $\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)$ generated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is easy to check that its image $\bar{H}'$ in $\mathrm{SL}_3(F_2)$ is still $\mathcal{D}_4$, so it is a 2-Sylow subgroup of $\mathrm{SL}_3(F_2)$.

Therefore the restriction map

$$H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(F_2))_{(2)} \to H^*(\bar{H}')$$

is injective and the theorem comes from the commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(F_2))_{(2)} & \longrightarrow & H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^*(\bar{H}') & \xrightarrow{\sim} & H^*(H') \end{array}$$

For $l=3$, let $G \simeq Z/3Z$ be the subgroup of $\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)$ generated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

It is easy to see that its image G in $\mathrm{SL}_3(F_2)$ is a 3-Sylow subgroup. The same argument as above shows that

$$r_2^*: H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(F_2))_{(3)} \to H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(Z))$$

is injective. □

2. The image of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p))_{(p)}$

We use the notation of Section 0.

Theorem 2. (i) *For* $p=3$ *we have*

$$r_3^*(y_1^6 + y_2^6 + v) = \varepsilon^6 + \varepsilon'^6,$$

and the other generators of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_3))_{(3)}$ *are mapped to zero by* r_3^*.

(ii) *For* $p=2$ *we have*

$$r_2^*(e)=u_2, \qquad r_2^*(y_1^2+y_2^2+v)=u_3, \quad \textit{and} \quad r_2^*(y_1 v)=u_7.$$

Proof. (i) Let G and G' be the cyclic subgroups of $\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)$ generated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

respectively. They are not conjugate in $\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)$, so the map

$$H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))_{(3)} \to H^*(G) \oplus H^*(G')$$

is injective (Theorem 0.1). The images $\bar{G}$ and $\bar{G}'$ in $\mathrm{SL}_3(F_3)$ are conjugate to the groups generated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_3))_{(3)} & \longrightarrow & H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ H^*(\bar{G}) \oplus H^*(\bar{G}') & \xrightarrow{\sim} & H^*(G) \oplus H^*(G') \end{array}$$

shows that it will be enough to study the restriction maps from $\mathrm{GL}_3(F_3)$ to $\bar{G}$ and $\bar{G}'$.

Let $H^*(G)=Z/3[\varepsilon]$ and $H^*(G')=Z/3[\varepsilon']$. Since U contains $\bar{G}$ and $\bar{G}'$, we can first study the map

$$H^*(U) \to H^*(\bar{G}) \oplus H^*(\bar{G}').$$

Using [5, (1.2) and (1.3)], we have $b^2 \,|\, \bar{G} = y_1^2 y_2^2 \,|\, \bar{G} = 0$, and we deduce that

$$y_1 \,|\, \bar{G} = \varepsilon, \qquad y_2 \,|\, \bar{G} = v \,|\, \bar{G} = b \,|\, \bar{G} = 0.$$

Similarly,

$$y_1 \,|\, \bar{G}' = \varepsilon', \qquad y_2 \,|\, \bar{G}' = v \,|\, \bar{G}' = b \,|\, \bar{G}' = 0.$$

We deduce from this that $r_3^*(y_1^6 + y_2^6 + v^2) = \varepsilon^6 + \varepsilon'^6$ and that the other generators of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_3))_{(3)}$ map to zero.

Notice that there are no nilpotents in $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))_{(3)}$.

(ii) Let $H \subset \Gamma_O$ be the subgroup of $\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)$ generated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

and $H' \subset \Gamma_{M'}$ the group generated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} -1 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Using the fact that $H' \simeq \bar{H}' = U$, we get (cf. [5, Theorem 5.4])

$$y_1 v \,|\, H' = x_1 x_4, \qquad y_1^2 + y_2^2 + v \,|\, H' = x_2^2 + x_4 \quad \text{and} \quad e \,|\, H' = x_3,$$

where x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 are the generators of $H^*(\mathcal{S}_4)$ given in [3].

From this it follows that

$$y_1 v \,|\, \Gamma_{M'} = z_3, \qquad y_1^2 + y_2^2 + v \,|\, \Gamma_{M'} = z_2 \quad \text{and} \quad e \,|\, \Gamma_{M'} = z_1$$

(notation of [3]).

To compute $H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(F_2))_{(2)} \to H^*(\Gamma_O)_{(2)}$, denote by j_1 (resp. j_2) the inclusion of the group $Z/2Z$ generated by

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

into $\Gamma_{M'}$(resp. Γ_O), and by φ (resp. φ') the inclusion of $\Gamma_{M'}$(resp. Γ_O) into $\mathrm{SL}_3(Z)$. We have [3] $(\varphi' \cdot j_2)^* = (\varphi \cdot j_1)^*$. Composing this with r_2^*, we get

(a) $$y_1 v \,|\, Z/2Z = 0, \qquad y_1^2 + y_2^2 + v \,|\, Z/2Z = t^2 \quad \text{and} \quad e \,|\, Z/2Z = 0,$$

where $t \in H^2(Z/2Z)$ is the generator.

Let $\sigma : \mathcal{S}_4 \to Z/2Z$ be the signature morphism. We have $\sigma \cdot j_2 = \mathrm{id}$. Therefore, in $\mathrm{SL}_3(F_2)$, we get $\bar{\sigma} \cdot \bar{j}_2 = \mathrm{id}$. Furthermore $\bar{\Gamma}_O \simeq \mathcal{S}_3$, by [3, Lemma 0]. By [3, Lemma 8], the morphism

$$\bar{j}_2^{*-1} = \bar{\sigma}^* : H^*(Z/2Z) \to H^*(\mathcal{S}_3)_{(2)}$$

is an isomorphism. Moreover, if we call y_1' the generator of $H^2(\mathcal{S}_4)_{(2)} = Z/2Z$, we have that $\sigma^*(t) = y_1$ and $\sigma^* : H^*(Z/2Z) \to H^*(\Gamma_O)_{(2)}$ is injective. Therefore

$$r_2^* \simeq \sigma^* \bar{j}_2^* : H^*(\bar{\Gamma}_O)_{(2)} \to H^*(\Gamma_O)$$

is injective, and we have $\bar{\varphi}' \cdot \bar{j}_2 = r_2 \cdot \varphi' \cdot j_2$.

From the arguments above, we can evaluate

$$r_2^* \cdot \bar{\varphi}'^* = \sigma^* \cdot \bar{j}_2^* \cdot \bar{\varphi}'^* = \sigma^* \cdot j_2^* \cdot \varphi'^* \cdot r_2^* = \sigma^* \cdot j_1^* \cdot \varphi^* \cdot r_2^*.$$

From (a), we obtain

(b) $$y_1 v \,|\, \Gamma_O = 0, \qquad y_1^2 + y_2^2 + v \,|\, \Gamma_O = y_1^2 \quad \text{and} \quad e \,|\, \Gamma_O = 0.$$

Recall that the generators u_2, u_3, u_7 of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))_{(2)}$ are chosen such that $u_2 = z_1$, $u_3 = y_1^2 + z_2$ and $u_7 = z_3$ [3, Theorem 4(iv)].

The facts (a) and (b) imply

$$r_2^*(e) = u_2, \qquad r_2^*(y_1^2 + y_2^2 + v) = u_3 \quad \text{and} \quad r_2^*(y_1 v) = u_7. \qquad \square$$

3. The image of Chern classes

3.1. In this section, we fix a prime $l = 2, 3$ and a prime p different from l. We shall study the image via the reduction homomorphism $r_p^* : H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p)) \to H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$ of some classes $\tilde{c}_i \in H^{2i}(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p))_{(l)}$ defined as follows. Let $\bar{F}_p$ be an algebraic closure of F_p and $\varrho : \bar{F}_p^\times \to \mathbb{C}^\times$ a fixed embedding. When G is a finite group, we denote by $R_k(G)$ (resp. $R(G)$) the Grothendieck group of representations of G over a field k (resp. the complex field $\mathbb{C}$). To the embedding ϱ, we attach a Brauer lifting $\phi : R_k(G) \to R(G)$ for any finite extension k of F_p [2, 18.4]. By definition, $\tilde{c}_i \in H^{2i}(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p))$ will be the Chern classes of the Brauer lifting of the natural representation of $\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p)$.

We also define $c_i \in H^{2i}(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))_{(l)}$ to be the l-torsion part of the Chern classes of the embedding $\mathrm{GL}_3(Z) \to \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C})$.

Lemma 3.1. *We have* $r_p^*(\tilde{c}_i) = c_i$.

Proof. Let G be a subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)$ whose order is a power of l. We shall study the restriction of c_i and $r_p^*(\tilde{c}_i)$ to $H^{2i}(G)$. Since the cohomology of $\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)$ is detected by such groups (see Theorem 0.1), the lemma will follow from the equalities

$$c_i \mid G = r_p^*(\tilde{c}_i) \mid G.$$

Let K be a local field with characteristic 0 and residue field k, a finite extension of F_p such that the order of G divides the order of k. Let $\varrho : K \to \mathbb{C}$ be a fixed embedding of K into $\mathbb{C}$ and $\varrho : k^\times \to K^\times \to \mathbb{C}^\times$ the associate lifting of the units of k into $\mathbb{C}^\times$. (Remark that $\tilde{c}_i$ does not depend on the choice of this embedding.) Then the inclusion homomorphism $G \to \mathrm{GL}_3(Z) \to \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C})$ factors through $G \xrightarrow{j} \mathrm{GL}_3(K) \xrightarrow{\varrho} \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C})$. We have

$$c_i \mid G = j^* \varrho^*(c_i).$$

Let r_K be the decomposition homomorphism $R_K(G) \to R_k(G)$. Then we know by [2, 15.5] that r_k is an isomorphism. Denote by $\Phi : R_k(G) \to R_K(G)$ its inverse. We have $\phi = \varrho \cdot \Phi$, where ϱ is the embedding $R_K(G) \to R(G)$ defined by $\varrho([M]) = [M \otimes_K \mathbb{C}]$ (cf. [2, 18.4]). We denote by In the embedding $\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p) \to \mathrm{GL}_3(k)$. We have

$$r_p^*(\tilde{c}_i) \mid G = r_p^*(c_i(\varrho \cdot \Phi(\mathrm{In} \mid G)))$$

$$= c_i(\varrho \cdot \Phi(\mathrm{In} \cdot r_p \mid G)) = c_i(\varrho(\phi(r_K(j))))$$

$$= c_i(\varrho \cdot j) = c_i \mid G. \qquad \square$$

3.2. We shall find an expression of the Chern classes $c_i = r_p^*(\tilde{c}_i)$ in terms of the generators of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$. Let us fix some notations. The 3-torsion $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))_{(3)}$ of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$ is generated by classes ε^2 and ε'^2 defined in Theorem 0.1(ii). The 2-torsion $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))_{(2)}$ of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$ is generated by classes $u_1, u_2, \ldots, u_7$ in $H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(Z))_{(2)}$ (Theorem 0.1(iii)) and by the class $u_0 \in H^2(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$ which is obtained from the determinant

$$\det{}^*: H^2(Z/2Z) \to H^2(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)).$$

Theorem 3.2. (i) *For* $l = 3$, *we have*

$$r_p^*(\tilde{c}_1) = r_p^*(\tilde{c}_3) = 0, \qquad r_p^*(\tilde{c}_2) = -\varepsilon^2 - \varepsilon'^2.$$

(ii) *For* $l = 2$, *we have*

$$r_p^*(\tilde{c}_1) = u_0, \qquad r_p^*(\tilde{c}_2) = -u_3 - u_4, \quad \textit{and} \quad r_p^*(\tilde{c}_3) = u_1^2 + u_2^2.$$

Proof. (i) We get $r_p^*(\tilde{c}_1) = r_p^*(\tilde{c}_3) = 0$ by noticing that $H^n(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))_{(3)} = 0$ when $n = 2$ and 6.

Let $\chi: G \to Z/3Z$ be an isomorphism and $\tilde{\chi} = \exp(2\pi i \chi/3): G \to \mathbb{C}^\times$ the complex character attached to χ.

The generator $\varepsilon \in H^2(G)$ can be defined as the first Chern class of $\tilde{\chi}$. On the other hand a generator of G has eigenvalues 1, $\exp(2\pi i/3)$ and $\exp(4\pi i/3)$. So we get

$$c_2 \mid G = c_1(\tilde{\chi})c_1(\tilde{\chi}^{-1}) = -c_1(\chi)^2 = -\varepsilon^2.$$

The same argument gives $c_2 \mid G' = -\varepsilon'^2$.

(ii) Since the generator of $H^2(Z/2Z)$ is the first Chern class of the character $Z/2Z \to \mathbb{C}^\times$, we have

$$c_1 = c_1(\det) = u_0.$$

To evaluate c_2 and c_3, consider first the dihedral group of order eight $\mathscr{D}_4$. Its complex irreducible representations are the trivial representation, three nontrivial one-dimensional representations, and one irreducible representation φ of dimension two. Therefore any faithful representation $\psi: \mathscr{D}_4 \to \mathrm{SL}_3(\mathbb{C})$ must be conjugate to $\varphi \oplus \det(\varphi)$. We get

$$c_2(\psi) = c_1(\varphi)c_1(\det \varphi) + c_2(\varphi) = c_1(\varphi)^2 + c_2(\varphi),$$

$$c_3(\varphi) = c_1(\varphi)c_2(\varphi).$$

Let a and b be generators of $\mathscr{D}_4$ submitted to the relations $a^4 = b^2 = (ab)^2 = 1$. We can realize φ by taking

$$a = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad b = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We see that $\det(a)=1$ and $\det(b)=-1$. If we use the notations of [3, Proposition 2(ii)], we have

$$c_1(\varphi)=c_1(\det\varphi)=x_2.$$

On the other hand, we have, from [3],

$$c_2(\varphi)=\lambda x_1^2+\mu x_2^2+\nu x_4$$

and we want to compute λ, μ and ν. Let χ be a character of order four of the group $Z/4Z=\langle a\rangle$ generated by a. We have $\varphi\,|\,\langle a\rangle=\chi\oplus\chi^{-1}$ and so $c_2(\varphi)\,|\,\langle a\rangle=-c_1(\chi)^2$.

Let $s\in H^2(\langle a\rangle)$ be a generator. Then we have $c_2(\varphi)\,|\,\langle a\rangle=-s^2$. As shown in [3],

$$x_1\,|\,\langle a\rangle=2s,\qquad x_2\,|\,\langle a\rangle=0\quad\text{and}\quad x_4\,|\,\langle a\rangle=s^2.$$

So we must have $\nu=-1$.

Consider the restriction of $c_2(\varphi)$ to $\langle a^2,b\rangle$. Let w_1' and $w_2':\langle a^2,b\rangle\to\mathbb{C}^\times$ be the characters such that $w_1'(a^2)=-1$, $w_1'(b)=1$, $w_2'(a^2)=1$, $w_2'(b)=-1$ and $w_1=c_1(w_1')$, $w_2=c_1(w_2')$. We know from [3] that $H^*(\langle a^2,b\rangle)$ is generated by the elements w_1,w_2 and a class $w_3\in H^3(\langle a^2,b\rangle)$ submitted to the relations

$$2w_1=2w_2=2w_3=w_3^2+w_1w_2(w_1+w_2)=0.$$

Since

$$a^2=\begin{pmatrix}-1&0\\0&-1\end{pmatrix}\quad\text{and}\quad b=\begin{pmatrix}-1&0\\0&1\end{pmatrix},$$

we have

$$c_2(\varphi)\,|\,\langle a^2,b\rangle=c_1(w_1')c_1(w_1'w_2')=w_1^2+w_1w_2.$$

On the other hand, by [3], we know

$$x_1\,|\,\langle a^2,b\rangle=0,\qquad x_2\,|\,\langle a^2,b\rangle=w_2,\qquad x_4\,|\,\langle a^2,b\rangle=w_1^2+w_1w_2.$$

So we get $\mu=0$.

Finally we restrict $c_2(\varphi)$ to $\langle ab\rangle$. It is trivial that $c_2(\varphi)=0$. If $t\in H^2(\langle ab\rangle)$ is the generator, we have

$$x_1\,|\,\langle ab\rangle=x_2\,|\,\langle ab\rangle=t\quad\text{and}\quad x_4\,|\,\langle ab\rangle=0.$$

So we get $\lambda=\mu=0$.

In conclusion we have proved that $c_2(\varphi)=-x_4$ and for any faithfull representation $\psi:\mathscr{D}_4\to\mathrm{SL}_3(\mathbb{C})$ we have

$$c_2(\psi)=x_2^2-x_4,\qquad c_3(\psi)=x_2x_4.$$

We recalled in Theorem 0.1(iii) that $H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(Z))_{(2)}$ is detected by a subgroup $H=\mathscr{D}_4$ contained in $\Gamma_O=\mathscr{S}_4$ and another group $H'=\mathscr{D}_4$ contained in $\Gamma_{M'}=\mathscr{S}_4$. We choose the inclusions $H\to\Gamma_O$ and $H'\to\Gamma_{M'}$ to be i_1 in the notations of [3, Proposition 3]. From [3, Theorem 4(iv)], we have

$$u_1\,|\,H=x_3,\qquad u_2\,|\,H=0,\qquad u_3\,|\,H=x_1^2,\qquad u_4\,|\,H=x_1^2+x_2^2+x_4,$$

$$u_5 \mid H = x_1x_3, \qquad u_6 \mid H = x_1x_4, \qquad u_7 \mid H = 0$$

and

$$u_1 \mid H' = u_4 \mid H' = u_5 \mid H' = u_6 \mid H' = 0,$$

$$u_2 \mid H' = x_3, \qquad u_3 \mid H' = x_4 + x_2^2, \qquad u_7 \mid H' = x_1x_4.$$

Put $c_2 = \lambda u_3 + \mu u_4$ and restrict to H and H'. We get

$$x_2^2 - x_4 = c_2(\psi) \mid H = \lambda x_1^2 + \mu(x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_4),$$

$$x_2^2 - x_4 = c_2(\psi) \mid H' = \lambda(x_2^2 + x_4).$$

Therefore $c_2 = -u_3 - u_4$.

Put $c_3 = \lambda u_1^2 + \mu u_2^2 + \nu u_6 + \sigma u_7$ and restrict it to H. We get

$$x_4x_2 = c_3(\psi) \mid H = \lambda x_3^2 + \nu x_1x_4.$$

Since $x_3^2 = x_2x_4$, we get $\lambda = 1$ and $\nu = 0$.

Restrict to H'. We get

$$x_4x_2 = c_3(\psi) \mid H' = \mu x_3^2 + \sigma x_1x_4.$$

So we get $\mu = 1$ and $\sigma = 0$. Finally we have gotten $c_3 = u_1^2 + u_2^2$. □

3.3. The inclusion of groups $\mathrm{GL}_3(Z) \to \mathrm{GL}_3(\mathbb{C})$ induces a map between their classifying spaces

$$\varphi : \mathrm{BGL}_3(Z) \to \mathrm{BGL}_3(\mathbb{C})^{\mathrm{top}} = \mathrm{BU}_3.$$

Let $c_i \in H^{2i}(\mathrm{BU}_3)$, $1 \le i \le 3$, be the usual Chern classes. From Lemma 2.1 and Theorem 2.2 above we get

Corollary (see also [4]). *The kernel of*

$$\varphi^* : H^*(\mathrm{BU}_3) \to H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$$

is generated by $2c_1$, $12c_2$ *and* $2c_3$.

3.4. Finally we shall describe the map

$$r_p^* : H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p), F_l) \to H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z), F_l)$$

when $l \ne p$. When $x \in H^*(G)$, we denote by $\bar{x}$ its image in $H^*(G, F_l)$. We call $\beta_l : H^*(G, F_l) \to H^{*+1}(G)_{(l)}$ the Bockstein morphism attached to the exact sequence of coefficients

$$0 \to Z \xrightarrow{\times l} Z \to F_l \to 0.$$

By definition, [1], the classes $\hat{c}_i \in H^{2i}(\mathrm{GL}_3(F_p), F_l)$ satisfy $\hat{c}_i = \bar{\tilde{c}}_i$. So $r_p^*(\hat{c}_i) = \overline{r_p^*(\tilde{c}_i)} = \bar{c}_i$ is determined by Theorem 3.2 above.

To compute $r_p^*(e_i)$ we first remark that, by [1, Lemma 5], we have

$\beta_l(e_i) = ((p^i - 1)/l)c_i$. Therefore

$$\beta_l(r_p^*(e_i)) = \frac{p^i - 1}{l} c_i.$$

The map $\beta_3 : H^{2i-1}(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z), F_3) \to H^{2i}(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$ is injective, therefore the equality above is enough to compute $r_p^*(e_i)$. We get

Theorem 3.4. (i) *For $l = 3$ we have $r_p^*(e_1) = r_p^*(e_3) = 0$ and*

$$r_p^*(e_2) = \begin{cases} =0 & \text{when } p \equiv 1 \text{ or } 8 \pmod 9, \\ \neq 0 & \text{when } p \equiv 2, 4, 5, 7 \pmod 9). \end{cases}$$

To compute $r_p^*(e_i)$ when $l = 2$ we use the same method as in Theorem 3.2. We just indicate the main steps. We have

$$H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z), F_2) = H^*(Z/2Z, F_2) \otimes H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(Z), F_2)$$

and the map

$$H^*(\mathrm{SL}_3(Z), F_2) \to H^*(H, F_2) \oplus H^*(H', F_2)$$

is injective. Recall that $H \simeq H' \simeq \mathcal{D}_4$.

Lemma 3.4. $H^*(\mathcal{D}_4, F_2) = F_2[s_1, s_2, w]/(s_1^2 + s_1 s_2)$, *with* $|s_1| = |s_2| = 1$, $|w| = 2$.

Assuming that $\mathcal{D}_4$ is generated by a and b, submitted to the relations $a^4 = b^2 = (ab)^2 = 1$, we take $s_1(a) = s_2(b) = 1$, $s_1(b) = s_2(a) = 0$. The element w is characterized by the equalities $\beta_2(w) = x_3$ and $\bar{x}_3 = ws_2$. We have $\bar{x}_1 = s_1^2$, $\bar{x}_2 = s_2^2$, $\bar{x}_3 = ws_2$, $\bar{x}_4 = w^2$.

Proposition 3.4. *The algebra $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z), F_2)$ is generated by $u_0' \in H^1(Z/2Z, F_2)$ and elements $u_1', u_2', \ldots, u_6'$ of respective degrees 2, 2, 3, 3, 3, 3 whose restrictions to H and H' are given by the following table*:

x	u_1'	u_2'	u_3'	u_4	u_5'	u_6'
$x\|H$	$w + s_2^2$	$s_1^2 + s_2^2$	ws_2	0	ws_1	0
$x\|H'$	$w + s_2^2$	$w + s_2^2$	0	ws_2	0	ws_1

To check this proposition we first prove that u_i' is in $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z), F_2)$, using [3, Theorem 4(ii)]. Then we show that when u_i is a generator of $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$, its reduction $\bar{u}_i$ is in the algebra generated by the elements u_i' (compute in H and H'). Finally we see that the elements $\beta_2(u_i)$ generate $\mathrm{Ker}(H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)) \xrightarrow{\times 2} H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z)))$ as a module over $H^*(\mathrm{GL}_3(Z))$. □

Theorem 3.4. (ii) *For $l = 2$ and $p \equiv 1 \pmod 4$ we have*

$$r_p^*(e_i) = 0, \quad 1 \le i \le 3.$$

For $l = 2$ *and* $p \equiv 3 \pmod 4$ *we have*

$$r_p^*(e_1) = u_0',$$

$$r_p^*(e_2) = u_3' + u_4',$$

$$r_p^*(e_3) = u_1'u_3' + u_1'u_4'.$$

Sketch of the proof. To get $r_p^*(e_1)$ we restrict this class to $Z/2Z$ and use [1, Proposition 3(ii)].

The representations $H \to GL_3(F_p)$ and $H' \to GL_3(F_p)$ are isomorphic to $\psi = \varphi \oplus \det \varphi$ as in Theorem 3.2. By [1, Proposition 3(ii)], we have

$$e_2(\psi) = e_2(\varphi) \quad \text{and} \quad e_3(\psi) = c_2(\varphi)e_1(\det \varphi) + e_2(\varphi)c_1(\det \varphi).$$

Using [1, Proposition 3(ii)], we get

$$e_1(\varphi) = e_1(\det \varphi) = \tfrac{1}{2}(p-1)s_2.$$

By restricting $e_2(\varphi)$ to the subgroups $\langle a \rangle, \langle a^2, b \rangle$ and $\langle ab \rangle$ of $\mathscr{D}_4$ we get $e_2(\varphi) = \frac{1}{2}(p-1)ws_2$. We deduce

$$e_2(\psi) = \tfrac{1}{2}(p-1)ws_2 \quad \text{and} \quad e_3(\psi) = \tfrac{1}{2}(p-1)(w^2s_2 + ws_2^3).$$

Since $e_i(\psi) = r_p^*(e_i) \mid H = r_p^*(e_i) \mid H'$, these relations determine $r_p^*(e_i)$. □

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